

PHENOMENA

The Official UPIA & MAPIT Update

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IN THE PRESS
MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN
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LATEST INVESTIGATIONS
THE SOLIHULL GHOST INVESTIGATION
THE HAUNTING OF THE LORD ELDON
CHARLES BONNET SYNDROME
THE PENTAGRAM
AND MUCH MUCH MORE



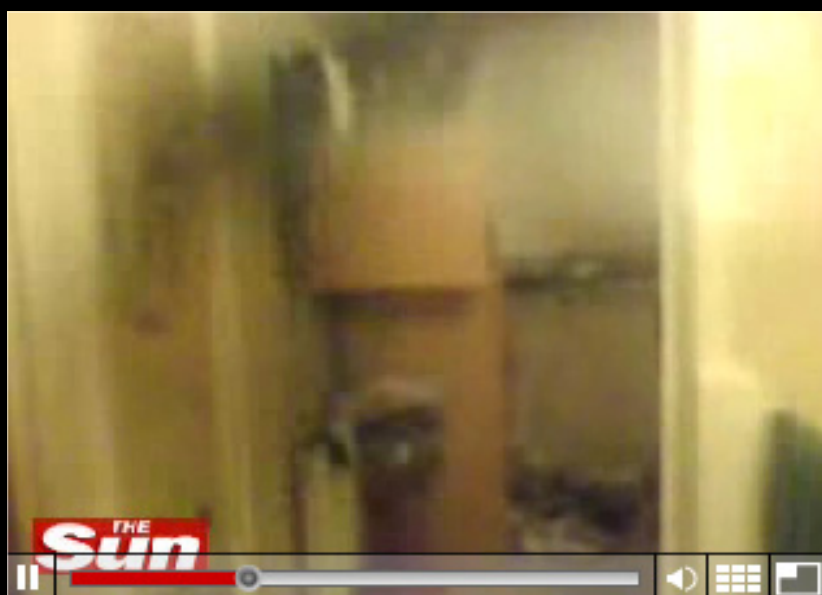
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The Solihull Ghost?

Steve Mera.

Reece, a young boy aged twelve years claims to have captured an amorphous apparition on his mobile telephone whilst filming on the upstairs landing of their home in Solihull, Birmingham. Reece later showed the footage to his relatives who in turn contacted the Sun newspaper which ran the story and placed the footage online for the world to see. The short piece of footage shows Reece on the upstairs landing of their home and is seen to be playing around with his mobile phone.

Then suddenly a dark mass that resembles the shape of a figure moves from left to right across the field of view. At this point Reece is heard to say ;'Oh My God!'' before the footage abruptly ends. The UPIA were to investigate the authenticity of this footage and were accompanied by Cactus TV production crew so to film the event and later broadcast it on the Richard and Judy show.



The Sun Newspaper Article.

Wrote by Virgina Wheeler and published on February 12th 2009 read... 'A schoolboy has captured eerie footage of what he claims is a ghost striding towards the banister at his home'. Terrified Reece Pitman, 12, heard whistling and used his mobile to film the shadowy being. It came days after his nine-year-old sister complained that someone was mysteriously finishing her jigsaws at night. The lad showed the amazing footage which must be seen to be believed. Mum, Tonia, 38 said: Reece looked scared witless. In the clip a white shadow appears from my bedroom followed by the dark image of a man. "It crosses the landing and disappears when it reaches the banister. Tonia, of Solihull, Birmingham, said she consulted a psychic

who told her the ghost could be friendly. Sales assistant Tonia said: I've had a tough time recently as my husband left me. I didn't believe in ghosts but I'm thinking of the spectre as my guardian angel. Julian Banks of the British Paranormal Society said the film was potentially the best image of a ghost in years.

Response to Sun Newspaper article.

To begin with, the Sun Newspaper article sensationalises the facts such as claims that Reece was in fact terrified. Also there does seem to be some contradiction in regards a whistling sound associated with the alleged apparition. There does not seem to be any mention of this during our interview procedure. Sensationalism is also associated with the footage, haling it using such terms as Amazing, Seen to Believed and Potentially the best image of a ghost in years. Before any reader continues, they are already put in the mindset that the footage is authentic and shows something rather amazing. Reece's mother, Tonia decides to seek out an alleged psychic and is surprised that she is told the ghost could be friendly... Oh dear, we are going from bad to worse. If Tonia was unsure if phenomena was taking place before her visit to this alleged psychic, you can bet your bottom dollar she believes it now. Re-enforced by suggestion and remarks made which would convince her to conclude paranormal phenomena. Finally, there is of course the small matter in regards an alleged statement from Julian Banks of the British Paranormal Society. Claiming the film was potentially the best image of a ghost in years. I have exhaustively searched for the British Paranormal Society (BPS) and the name Julian Banks and can find no other reference to this organisation or name except for the initial statement in regards the Solihull footage which went international.

Therefore, until I can be provided with evidence that such a person and/or organisation are in fact real I will presume it is nothing more than false information publicised by the Sun Newspaper in a further attempt to sensationalise the event.

Investigation.

We attended the Home of Tonia Pitman and her son Reece Murphy and daughter Taylor Murphy which is situated in Solihull, Birmingham around 7.30pm. After our preliminary involvement with Cactus TV crew, which in my opinion hindered the investigation some what, we were finally left to carry out the interviews. Parental permission forms were completed so that we could ask the children about their experiences.

It was not long before we realised that certain characteristics witnessed during hauntings were not reported nor evident. It is, in my opinion that for a haunting to reach a level of interaction and apparitions of figures to be seen, a much more diverse range of anomalies are often reported or experienced. However in this particular case, it was not so. This was the first indicator that we may be dealing with a case that has a rational explanation.

Investigation of the upstairs landing did not reveal anything unusual. The walls had recently be prepared for wall papering and were stripped to the plaster. The main light source was the overhead landing light and a single window at the side of the staircase with a glass vase on its sill. There were no adverse reflective conditions, no visible obstacles and no atmospheric anomalies. The temperature was a steady 72 degrees and did not fluctuate.

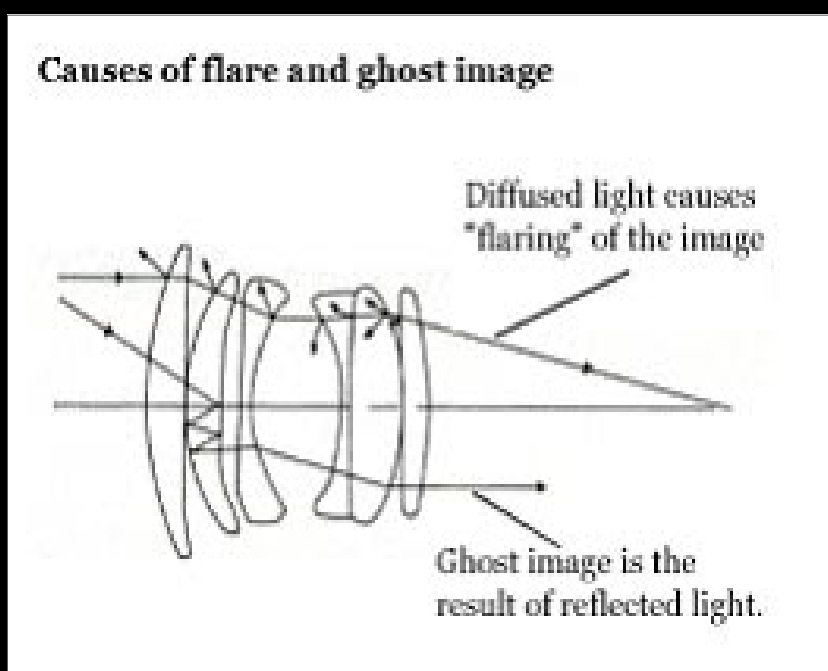
No unusual electromagnetic anomalies nor any magnetic fluctuations. In fact, the only piece of equipment to register anything was the Ion Meter which registered particles within the Nylon carpet. This was of course, a very natural response. Measurements were taken indicating the height of the alleged apparition to be between 67 – 70 inches tall.

It was not until we conducted video filming, photography and the attempted replication of the footage we discovered a feasible conclusion. When analysing the footage Reece took on his mobile phone, you could clearly see several lens flares, however when attempting to replicate the footage we could only find one reflective surface thus causing one of the flares. This was produced by light from the overhead landing light bouncing off the glass vase on the window sill.

None of the other lens flares seen on the original footage could be found on our replicated footage. We examined the doors, walls and door frames in hope of finding a reflective surface that could be responsible for light being cast back into the camera lens. None were found. It was at this point we considered the Counter Flare.

A counter flare is nothing more than a regular lens flare created by irregular angles, such as the light source being behind or above the camera and the reflective surface being in front of the camera. Lenses have always been susceptible to excessive ghosting, often combined with a moderate resistance to flare as well. Despite sophisticated multi-coating treatment of the glass surfaces, unwanted internal reflections are prone to occur. Since light reflects off glass, clear plastic and other reflective surfaces, lens flare usually increases with the number of reflective elements within the camera lens reach.

In regards counter flare, the problem is usually compounded with backlit subjects. Reflective surfaces in front of the camera catch the light source from behind and sometimes above the camera.



Counter Flare is visible on the original footage below...



Above and to the left are the Counter Flares seen in the original footage. This can only be created by a clear reflective surface placed in front of the camera lens.

Therefore when we place a piece of clear plastic such as a cd case close to the front of the mobile phone we can easily recreate the exact counter



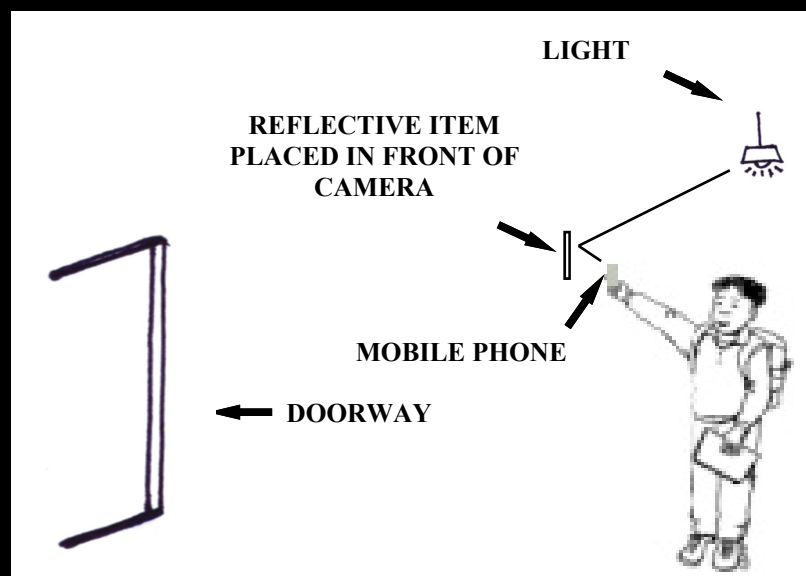
flares. In this case the light source (landing light) is slightly behind and above the camera which is reflecting off the clear cd case into the camera lens. See illustration below...

Now, all we have left to do is recreate the figure. To do this we simply draw on the cd case with a black marker pen (both cd case and black marker pen were easy to find in Reece's bedroom), and draw a small figure onto the cd case. Then whilst filming on the mobile phone, place the cd case near the lens of the phone and simply move it from left to right in a slight bobbing motion.

What your left with is a near perfect reconstruction of the original footage complete with dark figure walking from left to right and accompanied by counter flare.

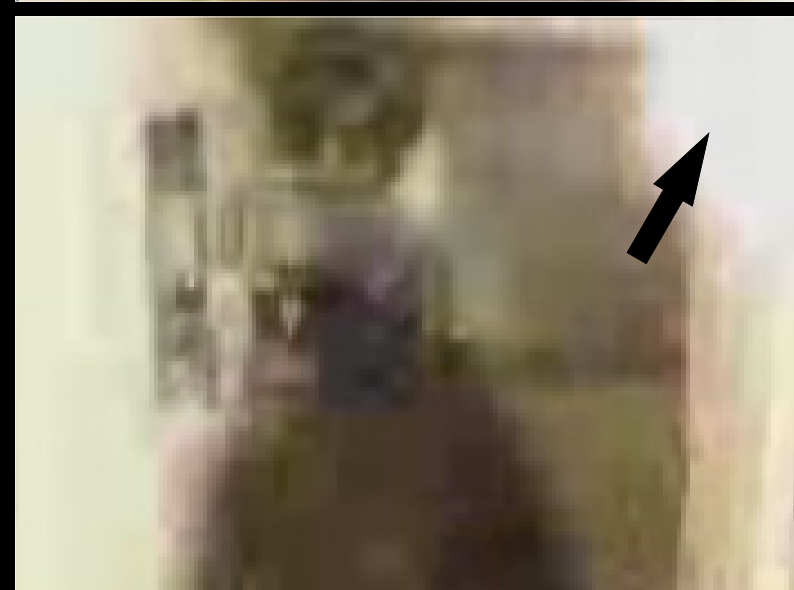
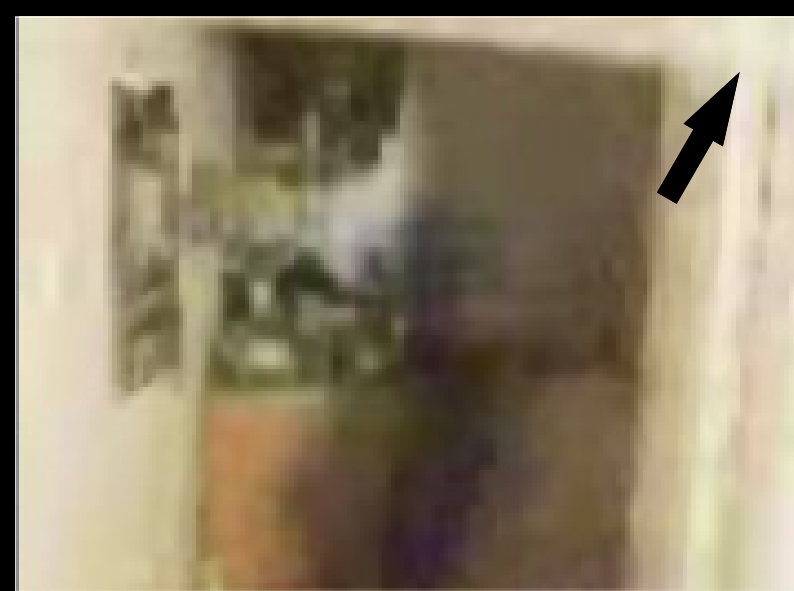
UPIA Investigators first point of call when it comes to any photograph or video footage is to see if we can replicate the item, such as through numerous methods attempt to capture the same anomaly under the same environmental conditions. If we can, then we look for the means and motive. In this case the means of capturing the alleged anomaly was a mobile phone camera and in this case there may have been no original motive than just messing about or creating a prank. Further motives come to

light when the media became involved and money was given to the family so that the footage could be placed in the newspapers and then later shown on the television show—Richard & Judy.



Footage from Reconstruction.

In the stills below, taken from the reconstruction, you can clearly see the dark figure and the counter flares.



Notes.

After further discussions with the family, it became quite obvious that they had contacted the Sun Newspaper so to obtain a handsome payment from them. I believe anything up to £500.00 is the going rate. Also, the family had been paid by Cactus TV which was probably around the same price. Finally they were all taken out for an all expenses paid meal.

The family had expressed their concern as to who owned the footage even though it was to be shown on the Richard and Judy show. Clearly they were concerned in not losing their footage or rights to show it. Maybe this footage will rear its head again sometime in the future. The family also had a large

interest in the subject and were aware of such TV shows as Most Haunted which Reece and his family enjoyed watching. The family did not seem too surprised when we delivered our conclusion. When we asked Tonia for her opinion, she just said 'Well..... I believe Reece had seen something. I believe that such things exist. It's really fascinating!'

Pre-Conclusion.

Due to being able to reconstruct the footage and that the family have earned themselves a tidy amount of money and notoriety from the case, coupled with the fact that not one other incident have been reported which might be considered paranormal in origin, and that no further incidents have occurred. I am pleased to say that under the circumstances, UPIA investigators and the Case Manager believe this to be a Hoax. The original Solihull footage is available on You Tube to view along with the footage of the Reconstruction. Many people have left comments such as how they believe the footage is real. However, UPIA are happy with their conclusion and have announced their findings on You Tube and to numerous newspapers, including The Sun.

Final Notes.

This case holds no confidentiality and video documentation is available from Cactus TV which was shown on the Richard and Judy Show.

Conclusion.

HOAX

Case Closed : April 22nd 2009.



HOAX

CROP CIRCLES : THE FARMWORLD HOAX...

On Sunday August 6th -2000, Mr. Newton Jones (owner of Farmworld, near Wrexham, Wales and a tourist attraction for school children and the general public) reported the sudden appearance of a crop circle formation in one of their nearby fields. Newspaper (The Daily Post) was contacted by either Mr. Newton Jones himself or his son aged approximately 30 Years.



On Thursday August 10th 2000, I received a telephone call from Mr. Cart Butler, a newspaper reporter from the Daily Post informing him of the apparent strange appearance of the crop circle. I then contacted Steve Mera of Manchester and told him of what had gone on. Steve contacted Mr. Vic Cleavley, a photographer for the Daily Post who had apparently visited the location and taken several photographs using a digital camera. Mr. Cleavley told Steve how he felt the presence of an electrostatic atmosphere at the he was taking the photos. All the photographs apparently turn out fine.

The next telephone call Steve made was to the farm owner Mr. Newton Jones to arrange a visit to the location that very evening. Mr. Newton said that he had felt light footed and even weak at the nee's whilst walking through the crop formation (indicating some type of strange physiological reaction). I had arranged to first meet with Steve and later to visit Mr. Jones at the location at around 19.00 hours.

On the evening of August 10th. 2000, We arrived at the location and asked for Mr. Jones. A younger man came out and addressed himself as Mr. Jones, (obviously, Mr. Newton Jones son). This gentleman did not want to participate in our questions and almost immediately sent for his father, who accompanied us (myself, Steve Mera and Karen Day) to the crop formation. Mr. Newton Jones also gave mention to their advertising balloon moving strangely back and forwards in the sky. I believe that Mr. Jones was in fact indicating that this so called strange movement was associated with the crop formation in some way. Finally, he mentioned of a helicopter that had flew over and hovered for a while. This helicopter was described as just a normal civilian aircraft.

Measurements were taken along with photographs, a visual plan, ground resistance readings and plant and soil samples for further analysis.

It wasn't long until I realised I was standing in a crop circle that had been hoaxed by circle makers. No unusual readings of magnetic fields, the crop was identical to others I had seen that showed that it had been forcefully pressed to the ground. I confirmed normal ground resistance readings. We had asked Mr. Newton if he knew of anyone who would make such a circle in his crop field. His answer was 'No'. The circle also, looked to have been first started then stopped and moved towards the centre of the field. After carefully measuring the formation and taking several photographs, we told Mr. Newton that we thought the formation to have been hoaxed.

At this Mr. Newton said that when walking towards the centre of the formation he could feel some strange force making his legs feel light. This triggered suspicion in our minds. May be Mr. Newton was in fact aware that the formation was a hoax and even possibly knew the perpetrators. Clearly Mr. Newton Jones did not want to take our pre-conclusion seriously. Something else that was suspicious was that there were two gentlemen in a white car watching us for quite sometime. These gentlemen circled several times. I made the comment, 'I bet that's the "hoaxers'. We never really did find out who these men were.



Over the years I have read many articles regarding this mysterious phenomena and I have come to some comfortable conclusions.

- 1. That about 99.% of crop circles are in fact hoaxes.**
- 2. That the remaining 1% sometimes show similar characteristics, such as high iron particle concentration, and the crops seem to have fallen to the ground rather than forcefully pressed.**
- 3. That the crop circle phenomena may very well be an extremely old phenomena, dating back to the early 1100s if not before and that the devil was said to have been responsible for such formings at that time, of course, many things that were not understood very well was often thought to be associated with witchcraft or the devil himself.**
- 4. That such forming have apparently been found on ice and in mud.**
- 5. That there seems to be an unusual plasma or light phenomena seen sometimes travelling through the crop by those who visit the formations.**
- 6. Finally, that there does not seem to be any evidence to suggest that crop circles are manufactured by UFO's or Extra-terrestrials.**

One of my favourite researchers of the crop circle phenomena is a woman called Nancy Talbot, who is very well respected by our organisation. Her lectures are well known and her research is of a scientific nature, and some of her findings are simply fascinating. She claims that some circles have this high concentration of iron particles, which may suggest that the more authentic formations have possibly been constructed by some strange force being applied from above. A natural concentration of iron particles congregate in the ionosphere. The high iron particles in the crop circle could very well indicate that the strange force from above attracts the iron particles before affecting the crop and leaving a residue of the ion on the ground.

Nancy also believes that some of the more authentic crop circles are created by some force of microwave energy from above and it is this microwave energy that causes the sudden heating of the crop. Most of the water content in the crops stands about four inches above the ground inside the stem of the plant and when heated can become floppy and fall to the ground, thus hardening when cooled and becoming rigid once again. A very interesting theory indeed. Some of the crop was taken up and transported to a university for testing. The crop was placed in a huge microwave oven and it was apparently confirmed that such microwave energy could cause a crop to fall to the ground. This method also affects parts of the crop known as nodes. These nodes often look like a small bulge similar to the shape of a knee cap. These nodes hold water and moisture and when affected by microwave energy, seem to explode or , buckle. There have been many crop formations that have been affected in this same manner, however, on Mr. Newton Jones farm, the crop nodes did not seem to be affected. I quickly realised that, from the centre of the formation that North and South indicators were clearly visible, i.e. The North indicator pointed directly to a near by pylon and the South indicator pointed directly to an old mining factory. Such indicators can sometimes be used as reference points when creating crop circle formations.



On a few occasions it has been reported that flies have been found fused to the crop in the formation. These flies are found dead in their hundreds and also on a couple of occasions, feathers have been found scattered all over the formation along with parts of a bird. At first it was thought the bird had been shot, however, when further study took place regarding microwave energy, researchers realised that sudden and intense microwave energy applied to an area where a bird is, could in fact cause the bird to explode. I don't personally know if this is exactly the case, but one cannot help thinking that it is a certainly good attempt at explaining this unusual phenomena.

Microwave energy would also heat the ground in a given area, thus ground resistance readings could vary significantly from the centre of the crop formation to an area outside the crop formation. Mr. Newton Jones also gave mention to the local advertising balloon unusually moving backwards and forwards at the time a helicopter was flying over the crop formation and very possibly viewing it from above. We do not think this unusual as the balloon could have easily been propelled through the sky by the wind generated from the helicopter blades. This was suggested to Mr. Jones, to which he said 'Oh Yes'.

Whilst leaving the field Mr. Newton Jones continued in the attempt to get us to believe that the crop circle was strange and mysterious in some manner, and went on to mention an incident that took place a few years back when a cow in a near by field was struck by lightning near a metal fence. As to why this may be associated to the crop circle is beyond me. I feel that it was a desperate attempt to alter our pre-conclusion. We told Mr. Newton Jones that we would be in touch with our results and left.

The following day Mr. Carl Butler, reporter from the Daily Post was contacted and told of our findings. Steve Mera mentioned that the crop had been obviously pressed to the ground physically and that no anomalies were found. Our conclusion was definitely pointing towards the hoax theory, taking into account that the farm where the crop circle is located is in fact a tourist attraction and is well advertised. In fact, Farmworld even has its own web page.



After measuring the crop circle it was determined that the formation had a diameter of approximately 218 feet. The formation can be described as Twin Circles closely inter-linked with two obvious centres. Plant inspection found no abnormal nodes and the plants were consistent with being forcefully pressed to the ground. There were no unusual Ground Resistance Readings and no unusual Magnetic Readings. As for that, there was nothing much more we could do. It was now just a matter of having some plant analysis conducted on the samples we had taken. But by an unusual turn of events it was not required....

On Saturday August 12th 2000, Steve Mera talked with an associate (Mr. Nick Nicolson) who informed him that the crop circle 'was' in fact a hoax, constructed by two gentlemen, Mr. John Lundberg and Mr. William Russell, who had apparently posted details of their crop formation to a web site known as 'Crop Circle Connector'.



This web page showed a couple of photographs and a plan of the formation, along with some interesting details that said the copyright of the crop circle design was to J. Lundberg 2000. It turns out that this man-made crop circle was commissioned by Channel 4 (a television company based in the UK). It will, more than likely be featured sometime soon on the Channel 4. If this is the case I find it almost impossible to believe that Mr. Newton Jones was unaware of this, in fact, he may have even been paid by Channel 4, who knows ? It won't be the first time something like this has happened. MAPIT did send Mr. Jones a letter asking him to explain how he knew nothing of the hoax nor Channel 4's involvement. We are still awaiting a reply. A reply that we will probably never get.

Finally, a few days later I managed to obtain the article in the Daily Post newspaper that Mr. Carl Butler had wrote. Of course, as usual it was corny and did not portray our investigation correctly, nor did they give any mention to our conclusion. Once again, the media have tried to make something out of nothing. Below is the article in question. One thing's for sure, I'll certainly be keeping an eye on an up and coming TV program on Channel 4 and waiting for them to state its authenticity...

By Dave Sadler.

The truth is out there

Expert plans probe

STEVE Mera of the Manchester Association of Paranormal Investigation and Training (MAPIT) has investigated crop circles all over the country and is very familiar with the research of Colin Andrews.

Last night, he had Mr Jones' permission to start an investigation.

"We always start from the point of view that it must be a hoax. First we make a visual appraisal, taking care not to damage any remaining crops.

"We look carefully at the plants, how they have been damaged, where they have fallen, in which direction.

"We are able to take electromagnetic measurements, we take soil samples and plants for analysis, we can test for radiation and examine the physical aspects.

"These can include things like if electrical equipment is acting up, effect on watches, whether people report feeling tingling sensations, nausea and so on."

Magnetic fields

THE theory that crop circles could be caused by magnetic fields centres on an atmospheric phenomenon.

Electro-magnetic energy forces some kinds of plants to fall.

The node section of the plant bulges as generated heat causes the moisture inside the node to explode and weaken the plant.

In some crop circles, insects have been found fused to plants.

There have been crop circles for hundreds of years. Centuries ago they were referred to as the 'Devil's

□ MYSTERY: The crop circles found by Newton Jones, inset

BAFFLING crop circles have appeared in a wheat field near Wrexham.

Evidence of some kind of disturbance in the air above has also been reported.

Paranormal investigators were last night carrying out scientific tests on the site at Sontley near Wrexham.

Farmer Newton Jones described the scene as "eerie" and says when he walked into the circle he noticed his feet and legs feeling a lot lighter.

The circles appeared before we broke nationally of an 11-ur research project by an American which concluded that crop circles are caused by earth's magnetic field.

Farmer engineer Colin Jones believes the field's electric current simply electrocutes crops, flattening them into distinctive circular patterns.

By Carl Butler
Daily Post Staff

than elaborate hoaxes.

Newton Jones and his family run Farm World at Sontley which opens to the public.

But across the road from Farm World in one of his wheat fields he noticed "something wrong" on Sunday night.

"I went up the lane and I could see circles.

"There are two circles in the centre and others on the outside, in all about eight or nine each interweaving with each other.

"About a quarter of an acre must be damaged," said Mr Jones, who has farmed in the area for more than 30 years and his grandfather before him.

"The crop should be ready for harvest about the end of the month, it's been late this year

not dried off.

"I don't know what has caused it but it certainly is eerie when you stand in the middle of it.

"The really strange thing is my feet and legs feel light when I walk inside the circle, but they go heavy again when I walk outside."

Mr Jones has no explanation for the phenomenon but is doubtful it could be a hoax by anyone local. And the last thing he wants is too many sightseers damaging the rest of his crops.

But another curious aspect is the "disturbance" above the field.

Mr Jones said a huge advertising balloon tethered above the area of the field was "waving from side to side".

And the tail of a helicopter which passed over the field also twitched from side to side.

Mr Jones added: "When I'm outside the circle, I definitely



The Strange Goings on at Walkerwoods Reservoir ?

Our story begins with a team of poachers who had decided to go out into the woods one night for a spot of fun with their high powered air rifles. As they were walking through the dark woods they stopped and could hear something moving in a bush. They were surprised to find that their torches had suddenly decided to not work. One by one the torches went out leaving them in total darkness. The fear of suddenly being left in darkness and with something moving in the bush ahead was enough for panic to set in. They decided to make a run for it, without really knowing what it was that they had encountered. They stopped several 100 yards later and could hear this thing pursuing them closely behind but just out of sight. They stood silently, holding their breath to hear where the thing was hiding. Suddenly the sound of heavy footsteps in a bush was all they needed to open fire. They all stood there firing everything they had at the bush, like a scene out of the predator movie. They heard nothing, not even a cry out in pain as the ammo ripped the bush apart. They stopped and listed.... Everything was quiet for about 20 seconds and then, what ever it was started to make its way towards them again. The poachers ran as fast as they could all the way to a clearing near the edge of the woods where a lamp-post lit the surrounding area. They stopped there puffing and panting and feeling a little more secure in the light. Then suddenly, from the darkness came a huge dark figure. It was about seven feet tall and was completely black in colour. It was as if it had no recognisable features. As it took one giant stride forward into the light they noticed something even more unusual. This thing seemed to be absorbing the darkness, as if camouflaged in some way. As you can well imagine the poachers shrieked out and ran for it. At this the large figure just stepped back and disappeared as the darkness enveloped it. They got to their cars and sped off. Needless to say, the poachers never visited the location again.

This area lies next to Walkerwoods reservoir and the woods are small but eerie. We sent a team of investigators up there to have a look around. They parked up next to the reservoir and followed a track to the woods. They were surprised how quiet the area was, in fact strangely quiet. They spent almost three hours at the location but failed to find anything unusual. The evening was drawn to a close when a weather front moved in carrying lightning and a surprisingly a large amount of snow. They quickly descended a hill looking over Manchester and by the time they got to the cars a full blown blizzard had set in. They were all surprised how fast the weather had changed from a beautiful clear night to something that resembled Arctic conditions. One good thing was that an investigator had brought along some home-made Chili soup. Even though the soup kept you warm and took your breath away for about ten minutes, it was strangely addictive. Though it was not the best of weather they all had enjoyed the outing. A number a days later other interesting facts were learnt. Apparently not so long back, a man was found near the woods holding tightly onto a fence. An ambulance was called when residents noticed he was suffering from shock. The gentleman in question was admitted for some time to a psychiatric department. He apparently refuses to talk about the incident..... ?



There are many tales of apparitions in the area of Gallows Clough. Legend has it that a witch made an agreement with a poacher who was soon to be hung for his crime. She would cut off his hand and in return curse the land owner, which apparently came true. The witch and the hanging corpse of a man are said to be seen occasionally by passers by. Be this true or not, it was certainly an eerie location. Many thanks to Steve Yarwood for supplying this case.....





THE HAUNTING OF THE LORD ELDON.

BY STEVE MERA



The Lord Eldon was contacted by our investigators, who met with the new owner Mrs. Laura Scullion. Investigators interviewed the landlady regarding the disturbances. An interview took place and some interesting facts were obtained... On one particular morning two individuals noted that all the pictures hanging on the wall on the left of the bar were all leaning at 45%. This was thought to be associated with the paranormal disturbances. The landlady claims to have witnessed a ghostly apparition of a woman dressed in 1800s clothing. Cold spots have also been felt along with strange sounds and glasses falling from shelves and even exploding. Electrical interference has been reported and bar staff have complained of being touched by a cold hand and only to turn around and find no one there. Personal items have gone a-miss and turned up in the most obvious places sometime later. Most of the incidents take place at night which has involved the pumps turned off and gas canisters turned on in the area of the cellar.

Lights flicker, bulbs blow, batteries fail quickly. The activity could well be associated to renovations that have been carried out at the public house over the years. There has been some slight structural damage to the property over the years and part of the cellar was filled in.

Apparently, two gentlemen who stayed the night at the Lord Eldon had reported rather disturbing incidents such as, a heavy feeling of pressure on their neck and chest area and awaking to see the face of an apparition up close to theirs. The land lady believes that the disturbances are caused by a female spirit that rather dislikes men. A cook that once worked at the property claimed to have witnessed a pet cat floating through the air as if being carried by some unseen force. The Lord Eldon is over 300 years old and is referred to as Location 9 by the brewery. The pre-conclusion at this time was that some type of Localised Interactive disturbances were taking place.

The Mysterious Photograph.

The photograph that hangs on the wall inside the Lord Eldon was found a number of years ago in a separate section from the pub, inside a outhouse structure that once had a pigeon loft and now converted as an office. There is no evidence to suggest that this particular photograph has any association to the paranormal disturbances that have been witnessed. The photograph depicts a young woman. Her clothing, hair style and the use of hair pins indicates that the photograph was from the 1920s - 1940s. The photograph was black and white and was at one time thought by some individuals to be a woman known as Sarah Anne Politt, a may queen who was said to have had some association with the building during the late 1800s. Some may even believe the photograph is of the very same woman who's apparition has been witnessed inside the Lord Eldon. However, the apparition seen is said to be of a woman who's appearance matches those around the 1900s and not the 1920s, 1940s. We also have confirmed that the photograph is not Sarah Anne Politt. On May 29th 2000, investigators received a telephone call from a Mrs. Mary Jackson Bloor from Bowden.

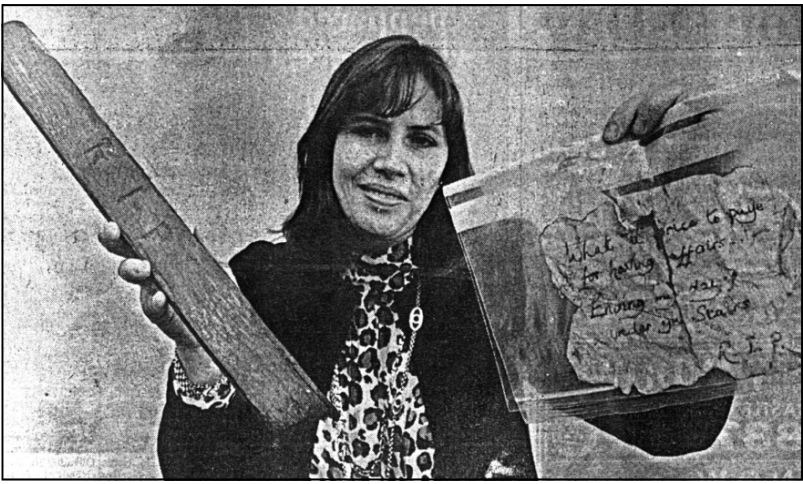
The Lord Eldon.... A small public house in Knutsford has apparently been the scene for paranormal disturbances for quite some time. The incidents there were brought to our attention by a local newspaper article in the (Knutsford Guardian) back in July of last year. The article read:

The Strange and eerie affair that haunts Beryl the barmaid. There are ghosts going on at the Knutsford Lord Eldon pub. Barmaid Beryl Kidgell is certain the place is haunted, and now she reckons she might have the evidence to convince doubting regulars. Last week workmen found part of a cross engraved RIP under the pub's floorboards along with a chilling note that read :

"What a price to pay for having affairs. Ending ye days under ye stairs".

Says Beryl: 'This could be a hoax, but we definitely have a ghost here'. While I have been serving behind the bar, I have often felt a cold hand on my back, only to turn around and find no-one there'. She says there is an eerie coldness in one part of the pub and claims bottles and glasses have smashed for no reason. Beryl also believes the ghost may be pictured in the pub. 'We found an old photo of a woman in the pub and no-one knows who she is. We framed it and put her on the wall, but she is still a mystery. It could be her'. But Beryl, 57, of Ashworth Park, says whoever the ghost is, it is always friendly. 'It's not frightening, but it certainly makes itself known', she says. One day, pub owner Gaynor Qualter put a guitar against her bedroom wall. When she came back it was in her bed'. But many pub patrons remain unconvinced by Beryl's arguments. One was said: "I think she's had one too many". But Beryl, who has worked in the Eldon for nearly seven years, hit back: 'There are always having a laugh at me here, but I am teetotal and I know what I have seen and felt. 'It would be interesting to find out if anyone knows about the cross, the note or the photograph'.

Below : Pub owner Gaynor Qualter with the piece of wood with the letters engraved RIP, and the eerie note found under the floorboards at the Lord Eldon.



Mary informed us that she was the only living relative of Sarah Anne Politt.

Sarah Anne Politt came from a family of ten and that her mother had two sets of twins which did not survive. Sarah eventually married a gentleman by the name of Edwin Jackson and together had a daughter called Jessie, who married a man called Wilfred Catlow and lived in the Feathers Inn that was once situated on Tatton Street, the very same street the Lord Eldon resides. We were also informed that Sarah Anne Politt (Sarah Anne Jackson) was buried with her husband (Edwin) at the St. Johns Church in Knutsford, opposite the Marshall Sales Rooms. The grave was situated near the perimeter wall.



Mrs. Mary Bloor (which is a farmers name) was sent the photograph to identify it. She told us that this photograph was not Sarah and that she thought that the photograph depicted the era of the 1920s - 1940s. The very same thing that we had suspected. As for who the photograph depicts is a mystery and one which seems to be extremely difficult to solve. Attempting to find out who owned the Lord Eldon public house during the 1920s - 1940s is not as easy as we first imagined. The woman in the photograph obviously must have had some association with the building at some time or another for her photograph to have been found there. To date, we have had no reply from Entrepreneur. A final attempt to obtain further details may take place. Details regarding the photograph and where it was found has been in the local Knutsford Guardian newspaper a few times along with a request to the readers, to see if anyone had recognised the photograph.

Unfortunately, there was no response. The photograph can be found at the Lord Eldon and may be one day, someone might just recognise the young woman in the photo.

The photograph was compared for resemblance with many other photographs that were taken in Knutsford from the 1800s to the 1900s. Even though we did find a few interesting Comparisons, there were no identical matches. So.... The photograph seems to have no significant association with the paranormal disturbances and until proven so, should not be thought to be related. A copy of the photograph is to be kept on file along with the details of this investigation.

The piece of wood with the words RIP on it.

This strange piece of wood remains a mystery. Why should someone carve the letters R.I.P. (Rest In Piece) in it. There are a few reasons why this may have been located at the Lord Eldon public house :

1. That the wood is part of a cross indicating where a body was buried. however, we do not believe such a body has been located and that it is not often bodies are buried in properties, especially when indicated by a cross. Some bodies are found in properties when presumed that they we murdered or never found etc. We do not believe this is the case, however it is an option that we had to attempt to research. We f~ no information suggesting that this theory was corect.
- 2, That the wood represented a personal item belonging to someone who took the wood or manufactured the words in it as a representation of their loss. A reminder of their loved one who had died etc. Of course it could be exactly this, but why should it be found in the place it was (underneath the staircase area). Even though it's a good theory, we are unsure at this time.
3. During the-early 18009, some individuals would create such signs and place them in remote locations as a form of curse. This was done when certain people disliked or hated others and wished ill fortune on them. This seems to be the most appropriate theory at this time. Of course, all three theories may be incorrect due to the lack of information we have at this time.

No analysis has been carried out by ourselves due to the piece of wood and letter not being located. As to the where about's of these items remains unknown.

The letter which stated **"What a price to paye for having affairs. Ending ye days under ye stairs"**, was wrote in old English and represents times in the 1800s. The letter is seems to be directly associated with the piece of wood, and indicates theory three as a possible correct one. The individual that marked the wood and placed it under the staircase more than likely was responsible for the letter and by writing the words **"What a price to paye"** referred to himself or herself and the next bit **"for having affairs"** indicates that he or she may have been cheated on and was most upset, thus having a motive to create the R.I.P. in the wood, place it somewhere where people would not locate it along with a letter.

Finally the words **"Ending ye days under ye stairs"** possibly indicates that only the manufacturer knew of this event and where to place the items. Simply, it could be that a person found out about being cheated on and was so upset and annoyed that she wished ill fortune on the other individual associated with his or her partner and created the items as a mean of getting back or revenge, placed under the staircase for no-one to find.

This action would also fit better with a female as during the 1800s~ females still we treated differently and had to know their place along side their husbands, yet many a man was said to get away with such actions very easily and a woman's actions thought to be more severe. What ever reason behind the creation of these items, it is one that alludes us at this time...

Tel. 01565 830181

Bowden View Farm,
Bowden View Lane,
Mere,
Nr. Knutsford,
Cheshire,
WA16 0QD
01565 830181

Dear Stephen,

Thank you so much for your letter, & also for the newspaper article & photograph. From the features of the mysterious woman I cannot see the face of my grandmother, Anne Sarah Pollitt & the hairstyle is reminiscent of the 1920's! I am sorry I can not more helpful & wish you every success in your search. If there is anything I can help with, let me know.

Yours sincerely

Mary L. Bloor.

Above is the letter we received off Mrs. Mary Bloor, (Sarah Ann Pollitt's granddaughter).

Activity Report.

1. Two men staying at the Lord Eldon public house have had rather bad experiences, which leads to landlady to believe the activity to be associated with the haunting of a female spirit etc. She said in her own words that 'women tend to have different experiences, not as bad as the men's'. The two men that stayed the night at the public house awoke in the early hours of the morning, with a terrible feeling of pressure on the neck or chest area and also seeing a face of an apparition right up close to theirs. They had also reported that they felt that they could not move at all at the time of the experience, hence a form of paralysis. Obviously not a very nice experience to have.

2. Women and bar staff have reported feeling a tapping on their shoulder and turned around to find no-one there. These incidents may also involve tugging and touching etc.

3. Objects have said to have been seen to move or brake, such as glasses etc. On occasion, a shelf of glasses will suddenly drop to the floor and some are even said to simply explode.

4. A kitchen attendant also claimed to have seen one of the pet cats floating past, outside the window as if being carried by an invisible force.

5. Cold areas or spots have been reported occasionally throughout the building and the electrical bills seem to be higher than they should be. Bulbs are also often replaced.

6. The landlady claims to suffer from excessive body electricity (E.B.E) and has had several extra-sensory perception (E.S.P) experiences since being a child, usually consisting of precognition, a knowledge of future events.

7. Objects have been reported to have disappeared and re-appeared in strange or odd places, along with electrical and mechanical interference. One such possible affected item is the till, which has faulted several times.

8. The alarm to the building has also gone off for no apparent reason, usually between the times 3.00am - 4.30am. There is a very slow subsidence to the building and part of the cellar has been filled up, possible because of the subsidence.

9. The cider has also been said to have been turned off and the gas cylinders turned on. This I would presume is in the cellar area.

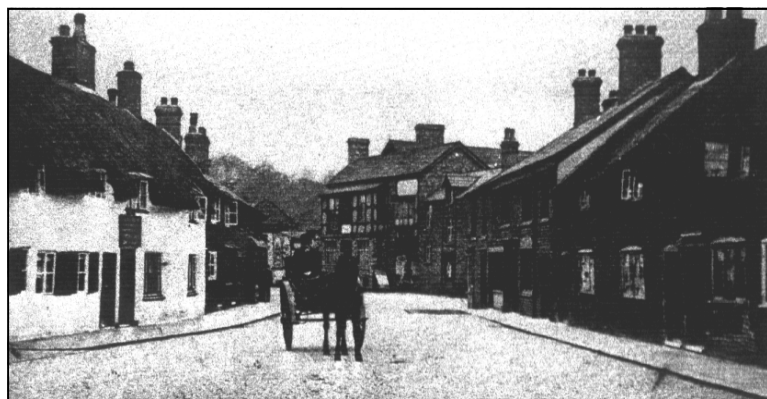
10. The apparition seen was said to be female in a long grey dress, amorphous and smoky in appearance. The landlady also mentioned that her perception seemed to change when watching the apparition. She did not see it out of her perennial vision, and described a sensation only known too well as a form of perception shift, often reported at times when seeing apparitions.

11. Pictures in the public house have been found to be hanging crookedly in the morning. The most activity is said to take place at night and the bar and cellar area seems to be the two focal points where activity takes place, sometimes accompanied by strange sounds.

The Lord Eldon public house is apparent over 300 years old and we have been informed that it very well may have been the first public house in Knutsford. The Lord Eldon public house is apparent over 300 years old and we have been informed that it very well may have been the first public house in Knutsford.

The Lord Eldon was first known as the Pack Horse, then the Duke of Wellington until 1832. Annie Pollitt, also referred to as (Sarah Ann Pollitt) was the daughter of Mr. James Pollitt who was the land lord of the Lord Eldon public house at the time and Sarah use to live a few doors away from the Lord Eldon in the Feathers Inn. Sarah eventually married Mr. Edwin Jackson and became Mrs. Jackson who had two sets of twins that both unfortunately died. However they did have a single daughter called Jessie who went on to marry Mr. Wilfred Catlow. Sarah moved from the Feathers Inn to Stanley Road in Knutsford which was next to the hospital.

Below is a peaceful view of Tatton Street, when compared with today's busy street. Just before Minshull Street, was a public weighing machine which stood there until 1792. The shop next to it was Jackson's Pork Butchers which very well may be associated to the family name of Mrs. Sarah Ann Jackson. Driving the pony and trap is 'Coffee Dean', a farmer from Over Tabley Hall Farm, who was known for his teetotalism. There was no cider or beer for his haymakers!



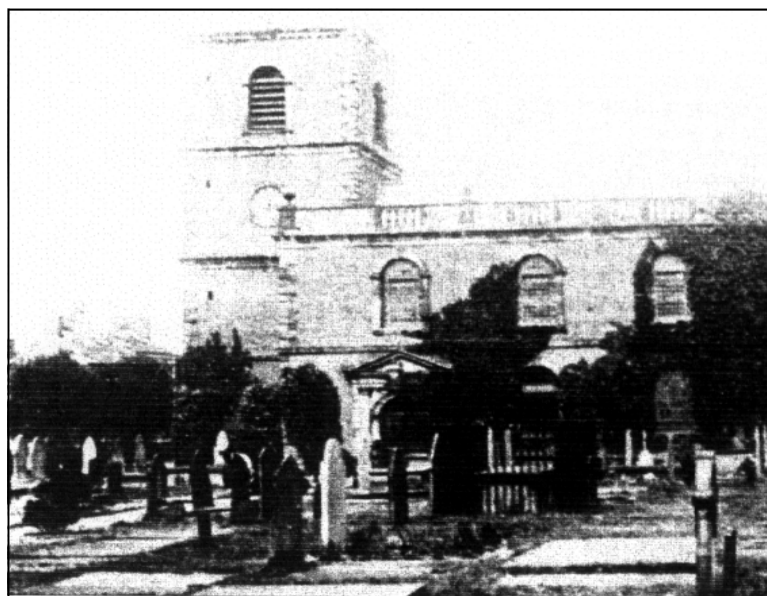
The thatched cottage with the board over the door, was the 'Feathers Inn' for many years, reverting to a cottage again in 1910. A small shop separates it from the 'Lord Eldon Inn'. Augustus Caesar kept this shop. Later, the Caesar family, made rustic summer houses and garden furniture, and these were displayed for sale in the grounds of their cottage, next to the library.

In February of 1916, a disastrous fire burnt the thatch on this row of cottages in Tatton Street, and the Feathers Inn opposite, leaving thirty people homeless. The hand pumped engine could not cope with the situation, and the new steamer engine could not be used because of insufficient water pressure. Sarah Ann Pollitt was initially thought to be the woman in the photograph which was found at the Lord Eldon public house.

However we quickly realised the the photograph was not of Sarah as we did have it identified by the only living relative of Sarah Ann Pollitt. Also the photograph depicts a different era than when Sarah was alive.

Sarah Ann Pollitt had attended the Knutsford May Day Jubilees and had been crowned herself as May Queen back on Monday May 2nd 1864. The same year the Lord Eldon was so called.

A neat infants school and residence for the teachers was built around 1842 by Miss Luey Holland. 65 children attended the school. Maria Drinkwater was the school mistress and her husband was a farrier. The school house and blacksmith forge were next to the Lord Eldon in Tatton Street, which has now been replaced by the Edmondson Electrical store.



From medieval days, Knutsford had two chapels, one on King Street and the other known as the Parochial Chapel, situated a mile away across the fields, near Booths Hall. The church to the left is known as St. John's and it was here we located the grave of Sarah Ann Pollitt (Mrs. Jackson) and her husband Edwin. We had arranged to conduct our search at the graveyard and be interviewed by a reporter / photographer from the Knutsford Guardian which is just a little further down the main road, situated next to the old court house entrance.

St. Johns is in the centre of Knutsford and has many graves. After our interview and photographic sessions we located the grave in question, situated by the wall opposite Marshal's Sales Rooms. Below is a more recent photograph of St. Johns Church.



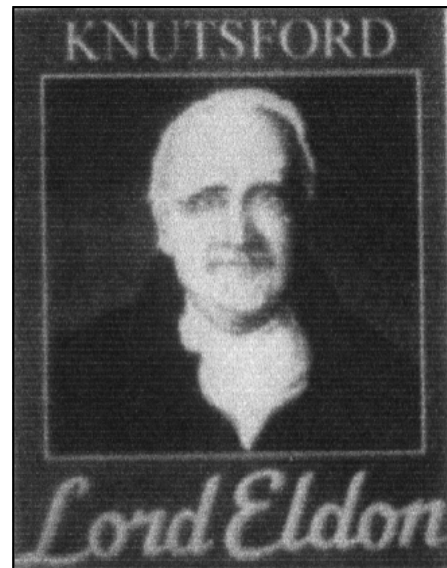
Above is the row of cottages opposite the Feathers Inn :

There were letters of complaint to the 'Guardian', (now the Knutsford Guardian), asking if the steamer was a toy only to be looked at and put in the May Day Processions! An immediate subscription was opened to help those made homeless, though as many were elderly - (three were pensioners of Lord Egerton) - their treasures of a life time were irreplaceable.

Canute Place with its small houses and shops was built by Lord Egerton to replace the old, insanitary, thatched cottages. After Lord Egerton's death, and the sale of his property, these little shops were demolished in 1966 to make way for the shops and flats of today.

Details regarding the name - 'The Lord Eldon' :

The name of the first publicity minded landlord to hang out a sign for his pub is lost in the mist of time. But certainly the Romans believed in advertising, and used pictures of vine bushes to advertise their taverns - hence the saying 'a good wine needs no bush'. In the days when most people could not read (even when sober!), a sign was the best way for a tradesman to advertise his wares.



Gradually competition increased and all traders used signs to promote their services, often cluttering up the busy main streets of towns. After the great fire of London, King Charles II passed a decree ordering that signs should not be hung in the middle of the street but only against walls or balconies. This failed to curb the excesses of the more enterprising traders and in 1712, four people were killed in London when a sign fell down and brought a house wall down with it.

Knutsford Historian : Joan Leach was contacted and asked to assist. She informed us that if we were looking for the graves of Sarah Ann Pollitt and her husband etc, we should check the census around 1861 and to check local parish churches.

Eventually after a lot of visits to local churches we eventually located Sarah Ann Pollitt's grave at St. Johns Church in Knutsford.

Conclusion :

At this time, there is no evidence to suggest we know who the apparition at the Lord Eldon public house is, only speculation that it could be Sarah Ann Pollitt. We do know she did have an involvement with the building, but that's all.

Therefore the identity of the apparition remains unknown.

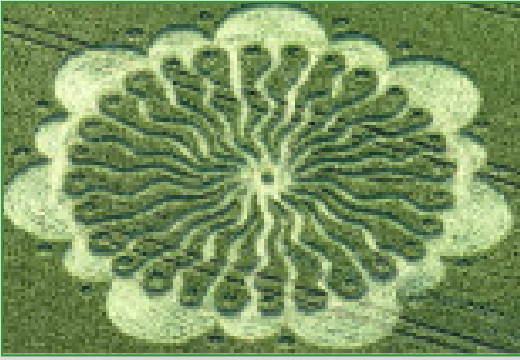
As for the disturbances, they are low frequency and low severity and the landlady is not bothered by the incidents, she feels that what ever it is or whoever it is means no harm. The case has been concluded as an authentic haunting (localised and interactive).

The phenomena may continue for many years and sometimes be provoked by modifications, renovations, extensions and alterations.

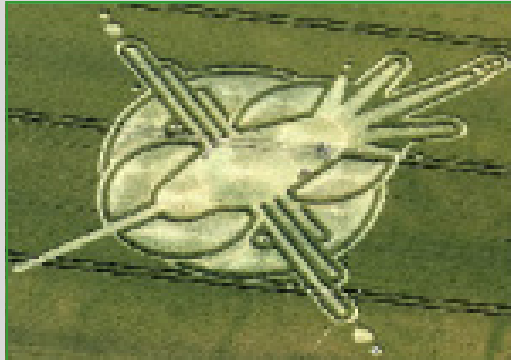
Maybe if you visit the Lord Eldon yourself, you might just meet the phantom visitor yourself...

For now the case is shelved until more information comes to light. I would like to express my appreciation to the Knutsford Guardian, local historians and Knutsford Museum as well as all investigators for their time and assistance...

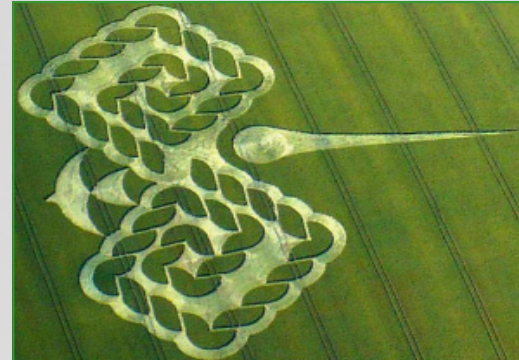
JULY 2009 CROP FORMATIONS



**Waden Hill (2), nr Avebury, Wiltshire.
Reported 1st July.**



**Milk Hill (6), Nr Stanton St Bernard,
Wiltshire. Reported 2nd July.**



**West Down Gallops, nr Beckhampton,
Wiltshire. Reported 4th July.**



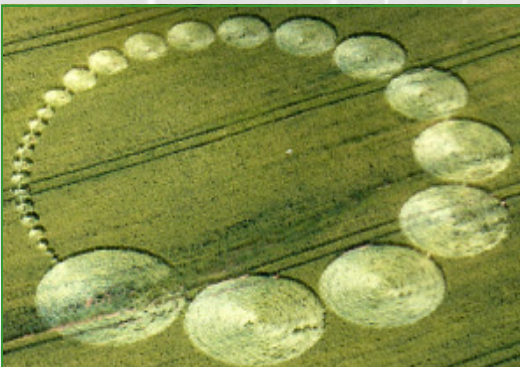
**Silbury Hill, nr Avebury, Wiltshire.
Reported 5th July.**



**Chesterton Windmill nr Harbury
Warwickshire. Reported 9th July.**



**Cannings Cross, Near Allington, Wiltshire,
Reported 10th July.**



**Radford Hill, Nr Radford Semele,
Warwickshire. Reported 11th July.**



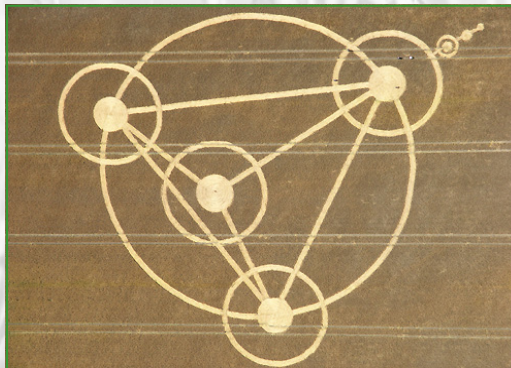
**Grey Wethers, nr Temple Farm, Wiltshire.
Reported 14th July.**



**Hinton Admiral, Nr New Milton.
Hampshire. Reported 14th July.**



**Martinsell Hill, nr Wootton Rivers,
Wiltshire. Reported 19th July.**



**Woodborough Hill, nr Alton Barnes,
Wiltshire. Reported 22nd July.**



**Smeathe's Plantation nr Ogbourne Down
Gallop, Wiltshire. Reported 24th July.**

BEYOND KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE

This years speakers include: Jim Marrs, Steve Bassett, Nick Pope, Geoff Stray, Ralph Ellis, Ian R. Crane, Neil Kramer & Peter Robins.

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PETITION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC TESTING OF MEDIUMS AND PSYCHICS BY LAW

The following is the official version which appears on the Downing Street website.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/PsychicTesting/>

This has now recieved confirmation by officials and is now live. Currently at 94 Signatures.

We petition Her Majesty's government to initiate an accreditation scheme for Mediums, Psychics, Spiritualists, Healers and other paranormal practioners, which would determine whether a "psychic" individual truly exhibits abilities inexplicable in terms of current scientific laws. While the request for such assessment seems both outlandish and draconian, we ask to raise this petition in recognition that many psychic practitioners charge substantial sums of money for their services to an often vulnerable customer base; most notably the elderly, the bereaved and the seriously ill. It is noted that the Office of Fair Trading deems false psychic readings to be a major area of fraudulent activity – costing its victims around £140 million per annum. The need for some degree of assessment and regulation of psychics and mediums is now pressing, given that the Fraudulent Mediums Act (1951) was abolished in 2008. As a result, customers of psychic practioners are only "protected" by "fair trading" laws, with most acts of suspected "psychic" fraud no longer considered a criminal act.

In light of the above, this petition requests the government creates a number of testing centres (ideally associated with a university psychology department and assisted by a stage magician experienced in techniques such as slight of hand, "cold reading", etc.), capable of assessing whether an individual's claimed "psychic" abilities are either paranormal or can be explained in mundane terms. Those "psychics" and "mediums" passing such an assessment would be issued a licence, legally permitting them to commercially offer their services as a "psychic practioner".

This document, however, should acknowledge that even apparently authentic psychic abilities are neither precise nor predictable.

Those who either fail (or refuse to sit) such an assessment should be legally prohibited from taking money through claiming to possess paranormal abilities; those breaking this condition being liable for a fine and possible charges of fraud for material gain. We also ask Her Majesty's Government to legally prohibit any attempt by a psychic, medium (licensed or otherwise) and/or witchcraft practioner of any tradition to use fear or intimidation to acquire or retain clients - particularly in regard to professed psychic abilities or divine favour.

The New AITC Course

Currently there are 6 completed modules. MAPIT are awaiting responses from academics around the world. We appologise for the delay and will inform you as we complete the modules. Thanks.



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SUBMITTING ANY,
SIMPLY CONTACT
OUR EDITOR STEVE
MERA AT**

S_MERA@YAHOO.COM

NEWS ITEMS...



HUNDREDS of UFOs have been spotted in UK skies since January - putting 2009 on track to be a record year. Brits have reported 231 mysterious hovering objects to the Ministry of Defence so far this year - against a previous record of 285 for the **WHOLE** of 2008. In 2007 the count was 135, and there were just 97 in 2006. *Former MoD UFO investigator Nick Pope said yesterday: "This is sensational. We are now on target for a record year."* "I thought the number of UFOs reported last year was high, but we now know that they are being seen in increasing numbers." Mr Pope, who worked on the MoD's UFO desk for three years, said the increase in reports is due to it being easier to snap "proof".

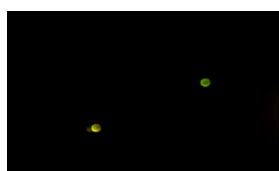


He said: "Most people have a mobile which can take pictures or film. Before, people feared being ridiculed." The MoD began releasing statistics on sightings of flying saucers dating back to 1998 in 2007 under Freedom of Information laws. *A spokesman for the MoD said the sightings are evaluated for threats to the UK airspace.* If no threat is found, no further inquiry is made. But the spokesman added the MoD remained "open-minded" about the existence of alien life.



A **BUILDER** was stunned when he discovered the 'ghostly image' of Michael Jackson on his car bonnet just 13 hours after his death. Gary Sloggett, 43, had taken some pics of his Rover 200 for a car sales magazine. But when he uploaded the snaps on to his computer he was shocked to see the King of Pop, who died the day before of a heart attack, staring back at him. Spooky ... Gary, of Stafford, said yesterday: "It's quite extraordinary. "The obvious explanation is that it seems to be some sort of cloud formation that just happened at the time. "But I've shown the picture to quite a few people and without prompting they all say: 'That's Jacko'. "To be honest I'm a bit of a sceptic and I'm not the world's greatest Michael Jackson fan, but as soon as I saw the picture on my computer it set me thinking. "I'm not saying I've been touched by any sort of presence, but it is pretty unusual. I was a bit bemused to say the least." Gary, who is married to Moira, 41, and has two children, Amy, 13, and Thomas, 11, added, "I didn't upload the pictures for a few days but I took them at around 10am on the day after Michael Jackson died. "When I saw the picture I immediately turned to my wife and said: 'What is Michael Jackson doing on my car bonnet?' "If you look at the picture for long enough it even looks as if he has got wings." **UPIA Believe the image to be nothing more than Pareidolia.**

JACKO'S GHOST SPOTTED AT NEVERLAND. Fans of the late pop star who died of a suspected cardiac arrest on June 25th, aged 50, claim the image of his spirit can be seen in the background of a TV show filmed inside his beloved ranch. During an interview with Michael's brother Jermaine Jackson for CNN's "Inside Neverland" TV show, a strange shadow appeared on the wall before crossing the corridor and moving around the room. Fans believe the shadow is the "Thriller" singer's spectre, which has returned to his former home from beyond the grave. Gareth Jones, 26, said: "It's an incredible couple of seconds of footage." The ghostly apparition was missed by Jermaine, U.S. interviewer Larry King and the film crew who failed to noticed its presence during the recording of the show. However, the video which was aired a week after Michael's death has become an internet hit since it was posted on video streaming website YouTube and hundreds of fans have commented on the footage believing it is the ghost of their idol. **UPIA have since found out that the film that was provided to and shown by ITN was very poor quality. On viewing the original footage you can clearly see that the ghostly image is nothing more than a shadow of a lighting technician in the far room walking past one of his lights causing a shadow of himself to appear on the wall. This was also later confirmed by Larry Kings TV crew.**



Strange UFO sightings have been taking place over the last six months over Springhead Quarry and Hartshead Pike, Oldham. The yellow and white objects are seen so regularly, many have been recorded and have now been uploaded to You Tube. It has been speculated that the lights are a form of Earth Light Phenomena (ELP) however some believe them to be UFOs. The mysterious lights continue to be seen and yet to be rationally explained.



Charles Bonnet Syndrome

By Dave Sadler.

Following his wife's death, David Stannard became accustomed to spending quiet evenings alone at his home in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. So it came as a surprise to the 73-year-old when he looked up from his television one evening to discover he was sharing his living room with two RAF pilots and a schoolboy. 'The pilots were standing next to the TV, watching it as if they were in the wings of a theatre,' he says. 'The little boy was in a grey, Fifties-style school uniform. He just stood there in the hearth looking puzzled. He was 18 inches high at most.' Mr Stannard's guests never said a word and vanished after 15 minutes. That night, he says, the walls of his house, which had always been white, looked as though they had been redecorated in patterned wallpaper with a brickwork effect.

The next morning he was caught off-guard again when he found a fair-haired girl standing on his sofa. She also appeared to be from the Fifties, but was life-size, wearing a short skirt and pink cardigan, with chubby knees, white ankle socks and ribbons in her hair. 'I watched her for a while,' he says. 'She didn't move much. Then she was gone.'

Classic case of a paranormal report, from not one person but many the world over. But is there an explanation? In the case of Mr Stannard there is, it would be easy to dismiss Mr Stannard's story as the bizarre imaginings of an elderly mind. Fortunately, he knew he wasn't losing his mind; neither was his house haunted. A few weeks earlier he had been registered blind, though he was still able to watch television if he sat at a certain angle. He'd been warned that as his eyesight deteriorated, he might experience visual hallucinations in the form of Charles Bonnet Syndrome

Charles Bonnet syndrome is a term used to describe the situation when people with sight problems start to see things which they know aren't real. Sometimes called 'visual hallucinations', the things people see can take all kinds of forms from simple patterns of straight lines to detailed pictures of people or buildings.

A Swiss philosopher named Charles Bonnet first described this condition in 1760 when he noticed that his grandfather, who was almost blind, saw patterns, figures, birds and buildings which were not there. Although the condition was described almost 250 years ago, it is still largely unknown by ordinary doctors and nurses. This is partly because of a lack of knowledge about the syndrome and partly because people experiencing it don't talk about their problems from fear of being thought of as mentally ill. Charles Bonnet syndrome affects people with serious sight loss and usually only people who have lost their sight later in life but can affect people of any age, usually appearing after a period of worsening sight. The visual hallucinations often stop within a year to eighteen months. At the moment little is known about how the brain stores the information it gets from the eyes and how we use this information to help us create the pictures we see.



There is some research which shows that, when we see, the information from the eyes actually stops the brain from creating its own pictures. When people lose their sight, their brains are not receiving as many pictures as they used to, and sometimes, new fantasy pictures or old pictures stored in our brains are released and experienced as though they were seen. These experiences seem to happen when there is not much going on, for example when people are sitting alone, somewhere quiet which is familiar to them or when they are in lying in bed at night.

An estimated 100,000 people in the UK have Charles Bonnet Syndrome, but many won't realise it because the condition remains something of a mystery. Usually people with Charles Bonnet syndrome are aware that their hallucinations, although vivid, are not real. Charles Bonnet syndrome hallucinations only affect sight and do not involve hearing things or any other sensations.

People with Charles Bonnet syndrome do not develop complicated non-medical explanations about the cause of their hallucinations (sometimes called 'delusions')... There seem to be two different kinds of things people see. Both of them can be black and white or in colour, involve movement or stay still, and they can seem real - such as cows in a field, or unreal - such as pictures of dragons.

Firstly, there are the hallucinations of patterns and lines, which can become quite complicated like brickwork, netting, mosaic or tiles.

Secondly, there are more complicated pictures of people or places. Sometimes whole scenes will appear, such as landscapes or groups of people, which are sometimes life-size, and at other times are reduced or enlarged in size. These pictures appear 'out of the blue' and can carry on for a few minutes or sometimes several hours. Many people begin to recognize similar things appearing in their visions such as distorted faces or the same tiny people in particular costumes.

Generally the pictures are pleasant although the effects can be scary. Sometimes the complicated pictures can make it difficult to get around. For example, streets and rooms may have their shape changed or brickwork and fencing appear directly in front of you making it difficult for you to judge exactly where you are and whether you can walk straight ahead. One gentleman describes how, approaching the top of the stairs, he had a vision of being on top of a mountain, and had considerable problems getting down the stairs.

Good knowledge of your surroundings can help overcome this particular problem. The complicated pictures can sometimes be a little scary. Although the visions themselves may not be of anything frightening, it is disturbing to start seeing strangers in your home or garden. People often overcome this by getting to know the figures in their visions.

Another man describes how, when he wakes up in the morning, he says to the figures he is seeing: "Right, what have you got in store for me today?" This allows him to have some control over the way he feels about his seeing things.

So a little affliction, which, if put into the perceptions of UK paranormal reports, and a population of around 60,000,000 divided by the number approximately suffering from Charles Bonnet Syndrome of 100,000. Means that there is a high chance of 1 person in every 600 who may not be aware of their condition and instead, may mistakenly report this as a paranormal event.

Could this be another plausible explanation for medical conditions causing paranormal like events?

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THE PENTAGRAM

By Kirst D'Raven.

Possibly the best known of occult related symbols. It is the only star shape which can be drawn unicursally, with a single line. Known also as the Endless Knot, the Goblins Cross, the Pentalpha, the Witches Foot, the Devils Star and incorrectly as the Seal of Solomon (which is actually a Hexagram), the pentagram is believed by some to be a potent protection against evil and demons, a symbol of safety and sometimes worn as an amulet for happy homecoming. However, the pentagram has a long and illustrious history, spanning many thousands of years and is prolific in almost all religions, cultures and sub cultures.

The earliest examples of its use as a symbol date back to 3500BC at Ur of the Chaldees in ancient Mesopotamia. The pentagram was found on postherds, together with other known signs of the period associated with the earliest known development of written language. In later periods of Mesopotamian art the pentagram was used in royal inscriptions, and was symbolic of Imperial power, extending out to the four corners of the World.

The supposition that the pentagram is a mystical figure stems from the fact that the pentagram is a five pointed star. The number five is considered to have mystical associations because it is a prime number - the sum of three and two and also of one and four. Christ had five wounds (allegedly) if you don't count the wounds inflicted by the crown of thorns, and He distributed five loaves to five thousand people. Also we have five fingers, five toes and of course five senses. The top point of the pentagram is said to represent the human head, or a non human spirit, to invert the pentagram is considered a sign of relegating spirit to the bottom of the metaphysical ladder.

Other beliefs state that to invert the pentagram is symbolic of Satanism and on a par with such mockeries as saying the Mass backwards or inverting the cross. To the Wiccan believer, the five points represent the Wiccan sacred elements of air, earth, fire, water and spirit, and the pentagram is usually enclosed in a circle to represent eternity. The symbol is inscribed on the ground, and must point North (to point South would mean you were a worshipper of Satan) Worshipers would then stand within the enclosed pentagram to invoke occult powers.

Amongst the Hebrews the symbol was ascribed to Truth, and to the five Books of the Pentateuch.

In ancient Greece, the pentagram is referred to as the Pentalpha, as it is geometrically composed of five A's. The geometry of the pentagram and its metaphysical associations were explored by the Pythagorians (after Pythagorus 586-506bc), who considered it an emblem of perfection. The pentagram was then passed down, along with other discovered knowledge of geometric figures and proportion into Hellenic art, and can be seen as the Golden Proportion in the design of some temples. Early Christians believed the pentagram to represent the five wounds of Christ, and from early Christianity until Medieval times it was a lesser used Christian symbol. Prior to the Inquisition, the pentagram had no evil associations and was viewed as a symbol of truth, religious mysticism and the work of the creator.

The Emperor Constantine 1 who, after gaining the help of the Church in his warlike and religious takeover of the Roman Empire in 312ad, used the pentagram, together with the chi-tho symbol (a symbolic form of cross) in his seal and amulet. However, it was the cross, which is a symbol of suffering, rather than the pentagram, symbol of truth which was used to symbolise the Church which subsequently came to power, and whose manifest destiny was to usurp the supreme power of the Roman Empire. The annual feast of Epiphany, which celebrates the visit of the three Maji to the infant Jesus, as well as the Churches mission to bring Truth to the Gentility, had the pentagram as its symbol, however the symbol has now been changed to a five pointed star in reaction to Neo-Paganist use of the pentagram.

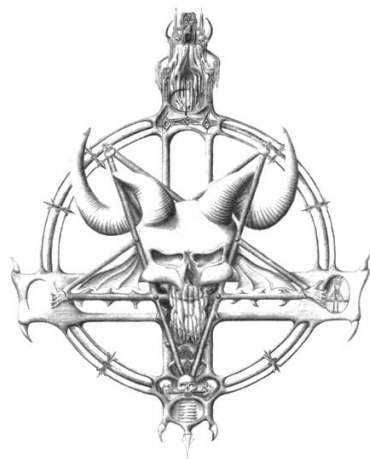
In the Legend of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, the pentagram was Sir Gawains Glyph. Inscribed in gold on his shield, and symbolising the Five Knightly Virtues - generosity, courtesy, chastity, chivalry and piety. Medieval times again saw the pentagram, as a symbol of truth, and was thought to be a protection against demons. Now known as the Endless Knot, It was used as an amulet of personal protection, and to guard windows and doors. At this time, the pentagram with one point upwards symbolised summer, two points upwards symbolised winter.

During the Inquisition, propagation of lies and accusations in the interest of orthodoxy and elimination of heresy was prolific. The Church began a long lapse into the evil and diabolic practices it claimed opposition to. These were dark times when to hold skills in herbal remedies, midwifery or to worship the Old Religion would bring even the most respected community members to a very sticky demise. The church viewed the pentagram as symbolising a goats head or the Devil in the form of Baphomet, and Baphomet was the idol the Church accused the temples of worshipping. The Pagan witches, particularly the higher and more learned amongst them attracted the attention of the Dominicans of the Inquisition, who began their deadly purge, and other horned gods such as Herne and Pan became associated with the Devil, which incidentally is a Christian concept. The pentagram, which until now had been the folk symbol of security now became associated with evil, and became known as the Witches Foot. The Old Religion went underground, still practiced under strictest secrecy, and remained there for hundreds of years, hiding from the paranoiac eyes of the Church.

During the birth of Hermeticism, the protoscience of alchemy developed along with its occult philosophy and cryptical symbolism. Graphical and geometric symbolism, not explored since the Ancient Greeks began to develop in its importance, and secret societies of scholarly men and craftsmen began to form. These men believed in the concept of the microcosmic world as analogous to the macrocosm. Western occult teaching began to embrace the Eastern philosophies of Spirit and Matter, and the pentagram was used to symbolise man within the microcosm or the Macrocosmic Universe. In Freemasonry, Man as microprospus was and is associated with the five pointed pentalpha, and as such was used as the symbol of the Sitting Master of the Lodge in its upright form. The Masons, with their appreciation of geometric form and structure, symbolically incorporated the Endless knot into the 72 degree angle of the compasses, the Masonic emblem of virtue and duty. The womens branch of Freemasonry also uses a pentagram as their emblem, this one the Eastern Star displayed two pints upwards, each of the five points commemorating a Biblical heroine.

The first graphical illustration associating the pentagram with evil appeared in the nineteenth century. Eliphaz Levi, the pen name of Alphonse Louis Constant, a defrocked French Catholic Abbe, illustrates the upright pentagram of Microcosmic Man beside an inverted pentagram with the goats head of Baphomet. This juxtaposition led to the concept of the different orientations of the pentagram symbolising good and evil.

In the 1940s the pentagram appeared again in its inverted form in the hands of Gerald Gardner, who adopted the symbol as the sigil of second degree initiation in the newly emerged Neo-Pagan movement of witchcraft later to become known as Wicca, but it wasn't until the 1960s that the pentagram again began to appear as an amulatic symbol to be worn. An upsurge in witchcraft and occult related publications at this time is thought to have propagated the establishment of the Satanic cult The Church of Satan, by Anton La Vay. For its emblem the cult adopted the inverted pentagram and Baphomet image used by Eliphaz Levi. The reaction of the Church was to condemn as evil anyone who took the pent alpha as a symbol, and even to condemn the symbol itself, much like the post war attitude to another ancient symbol, the swastika, or sun-wheel.



REVIEW OF THE MONTH

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MOON VIEWS

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THE SUPPRESSING OF THE EVIDENCE THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN CIVILIZATIONS EXISTING ON THE MOON, OR EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE, THE POSSIBILITY THEY ARE STILL THERE BRINGS INTO QUESTION WHY WE HAVE BEEN KEPT IN THE DARK. THE BIGGEST INSULT IS WE'VE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THE MOON IS A GREY - COLORLESS ROCK. ON THE CONTRARY, THE MOON APPEARS TO BE A SMALL PLANET TEEMING WITH LIFE AND STRUCTURES THE LIKES OF WHICH YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE UNTIL NOW. AT LEAST IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INHABITED IN 1994 WHEN THESE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN.

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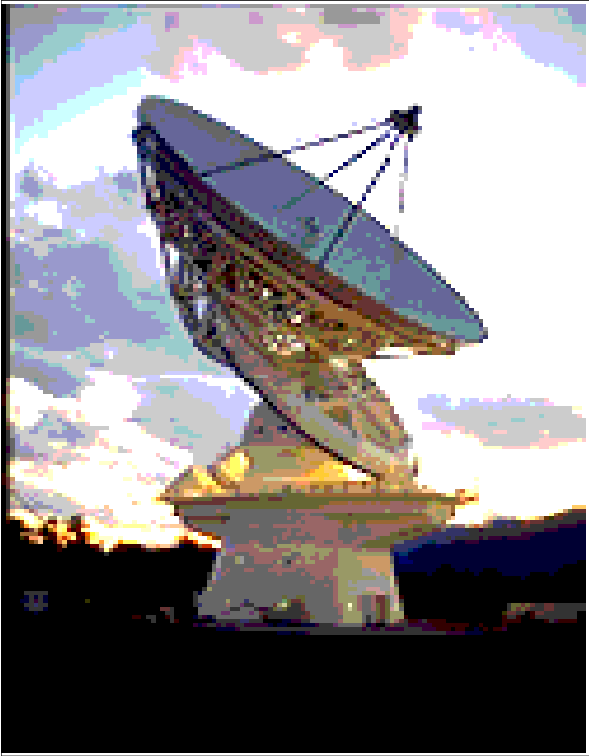
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PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH

WE HAVE RECENTLY
RECIEVED THIS
PHOTOGRAPH WHICH WAS
TAKEN LAST MONTH
SHOWING A SUN PILLAR. IT
WAS SEEN BY MANY
THROUGHOUT THE UK.

When the air is cold and
the Sun is rising or
setting, falling ice crystals
can reflect sunlight and
create an unusual column
of light. Ice sometimes
forms flat shaped crystals
as it falls from high-level
clouds. Air resistance
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lie nearly flat much of the
time as they flutter to the
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off crystals that are
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the sun-pillar effect.



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